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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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David Brown

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EXAMINER

ROSWELL, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,729

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Roswell

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 47 and 65 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claim fails to terminate with the proper punctuation.

Claim 55 recites the redundant phrasing, "further comprising comprising clicking" in the third line of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 42-45, 47-49, 52, 55-57, 62-63, 65-67, and 72-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rassman et al (US Patent 4,937,743), hereinafter Rassman.

Regarding claim 42, Rassman teaches displaying a plurality of time-slots and, for each of the time-slots, at least one potential appointment (taught as the display of a schedule in two dimensions, where time is located on the Y-axis, and resources, or potential appointments, are located on the X-axis, at col. 8, lines 44-52, and seen in Fig. 1), providing, for each unique combination of the time-slots and potential appointments, a clickable space, and clicking a first selected one of the clickable spaces to select a first one of the combinations and thereby schedule the corresponding appointment (taught as the inputting, modifying, handling, and

accessing of data through known methods and techniques, such as selecting an area on a display with a mouse, at col. 4, lines 20-35).

Regarding claim 43, Rassman teaches displaying for each of the time-slots, a plurality of potential appointments, as can be seen in Fig. 1.

Regarding claims 44 and 45, Rassman teaches coding the first space with a first predetermined code to indicate the selection, and the first code being a color, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18.

Regarding claim 47, Rassman teaches clicking within a second selected one of the clickable spaces to select a corresponding second one of the combination, taught as the inputting, modifying, handling, and accessing of data through known methods and techniques, such as selecting an area on a display with a mouse, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claims 48 and 49, Rassman teaches coding the first space with a first predetermined code to indicate the selection and coding the second space with a second predetermined code contrasting with the first code, and the first and second codes being colors, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18.

Regarding claim 52, Rassman teaches the clickable spaces being within cells defined by the intersections of rows and columns, each cell corresponding to one of the combinations, at col. 4, lines 20-35 and seen in Fig. 1.

Regarding claim 55, Rassman teaches the clickable spaces being within cells defined by the intersections of rows and columns, each cell corresponding to one of the combinations, further comprising clicking at least two adjacent time-slots as a result of the clicking, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 56, Rassman teaches the first space being associated with a first time-slot and the clicking comprising clicking in the first space and dragging over a second space associated with at least one other time-slot, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 57, Rassman teaches coding the first and second spaces with the same code, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18, and seen in Fig. 1.

Regarding claims 62 and 63, Rassman teaches coding the first space with a first predetermined code to indicate the selection, further wherein the first code includes a color, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18.

Regarding claim 65, Rassman teaches clicking within a second selected one of the clickable spaces to select a corresponding second one of the combination, taught as the inputting, modifying, handling, and accessing of data through known methods and techniques, such as selecting an area on a display with a mouse, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claims 66 and 67, Rassman teaches coding the first space with a first predetermined code to indicate the selection and coding the second space with a second predetermined code contrasting with the first code, and the first and second codes being colors, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18.

Regarding claim 72, Rassman teaches the clickable spaces being within cells defined by the intersections of rows and columns, each cell corresponding to one of the combinations, further comprising clicking at least two adjacent time-slots as a result of the clicking, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 73, Rassman teaches the first space being associated with a first time-slot and the clicking comprising clicking in the first space and dragging over a second space associated with at least one other time-slot, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 74, Rassman teaches coding the first and second spaces with the same code, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18, and seen in Fig. 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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Claims 46, 54, 58-60, 64, 71, 75-77 and 79-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rassman.

Regarding claims 46 and 64, Rassman teaches the use of menus for changing various display features of the invention, at col. 14, lines 40-47. While Rassman does not explicitly teach the display of an icon, and clicking on the icon for changing the code, it is notoriously well known in the art that selected menu items may have the same functionality as selected icons, and are often used interchangeably, for the purpose of faster access to widely used functions or features of an application.

Regarding claims 58 and 75, logging on to a computer is notoriously well known in the art. Similar appointment software such as Microsoft Outlook teach the ability to store appointment data over multiple work sessions, and maintains the information after an initial step of clicking in a time-slot, and a second log-on to a computer. Furthermore, Rassman has been shown to teach the use of well known interface manipulation techniques for entering and accessing relevant data.

Regarding claims 54, 59, 60, 71, 76 and 77, it is notoriously well known that appointments, in software such as that used by Rassman, may be scheduled for any number of reasons in order to remind the user of upcoming events. These appointments need not be application specific, as Rassman allows the user to type in any information pertaining to an upcoming event. The Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE of these teachings. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to information that is user-specific and may be entered into the appointment system of Rassman to remind the user of an upcoming event.

Regarding claim 79, Rassman teaches the clickable spaces being within cells defined by the intersections of rows and columns, each cell corresponding to one of the combinations, further comprising clicking at least two adjacent time-slots as a result of the clicking, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 80, Rassman teaches the first space being associated with a first time-slot and the clicking comprising clicking in the first space and dragging over a second space associated with at least one other time-slot, taught as the use of well known selection techniques, at col. 4, lines 20-35.

Regarding claim 81, Rassman teaches coding the first and second spaces with the same code, taught as the graphical indication of a scheduling, status, or conflict, at col. 6, lines 11-18, and seen in Fig. 1.

Claims 50-51, 53, 61, 68-70, 78, and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rassman and Rasansky (US Patent 5,960,406).

Regarding claims 50-51, 61, 68-69, and 78, Rassman teaches displaying a plurality of time-slots and, for each of the time-slots, at least one potential appointment (taught as the display of a schedule in two dimensions, where time is located on the Y-axis, and resources, or potential appointments, are located on the X-axis, at col. 8, lines 44-52, and seen in Fig. 1), providing, for each unique combination of the time-slots and potential appointments, a clickable



space, and clicking a first selected one of the clickable spaces to select a first one of the combinations and thereby schedule the corresponding appointment (taught as the inputting, modifying, handling, and accessing of data through known methods and techniques, such as selecting an area on a display with a mouse, at col. 4, lines 20-35). However, Rassman fails to explicitly teach blocking a second selected one of the clickable spaces so that the corresponding combination cannot be selected by a user, wherein the blocking is done by an administrator to the system.

Rasansky teaches an appointment system similar to that of Rassman. Furthermore, Rasansky teaches allowing an administrator of the system interacting with a second display to enter identifying information into the system, taught as the manipulation of the Database Subsystem by an administrator using the Administration Subsystem, which stores all persistent information pertaining to client accounts and calendars. See Rasansky, col. 7, lines 63-67 and col. 8, lines 1-16. Administrators of various systems are well known to have access to functions and features not available to a user that allow for the monitoring and restriction of data to a user, and would therefore be capable of blocking a second selected one of the clickable spaces so that the corresponding combination cannot be selected by a user.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rassman and Rasansky before him at the time the invention was made to modify the appointment system of Rassman to include the administration system of Rasansky.

One would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of data monitoring, user access control, and other various features an administrator brings to a system.

Regarding claims 53, 70, and 82, Rasansky teaches sending an e-mail and communicating by telephone to confirm an event, taught as the use of methods such as phone, fax, e-mail and pager to notify a user of a confirmation, at col. 8, lines 17-21.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 42-82 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell  
4/3/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Roswell', written over a vertical line that serves as a separator.